



# City of Cincinnati

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## **CITY MANAGER INTRODUCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITIZEN COMPLAINT AUTHORITY**

Today, City Manager Valerie A. Lemmie announced that Wendell M. France will become the new full-time Executive Director of the Citizens Complaint Authority (CCA), moving Cincinnati's police-community relations program another step forward.

As Executive Director of the CCA, France will oversee the investigations of citizens' complaints involving the Cincinnati Police Department in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Cincinnati, the U.S. Department of Justice and the federal class action Collaborative Agreement. The CCA is one of the key components of the agreement that seeks to improve the communication and cooperation between citizens and the Cincinnati Police Department.

France currently is a consultant in Washington, D.C. for the United States Department of Justice in their review of police departments' patterns and practices. He will begin April 25 with a starting salary of \$96,000.

"After a national search, we have found the best candidate to assume CCA's leadership," said Lemmie. "Wendell's experience, particularly in the Department of Justice, fits hand-in-glove with the important role CCA plays in dealing with some of the city's most important issues."

The City and the other Collaborative Partners (American Civil Liberties Union and the Fraternal Order of Police) worked cooperatively to identify the requirements and qualifications they agreed were necessary for filling this position. The position profile emphasized leadership to drive impartial and balanced processes and results, technical competency to maintain quality investigations and organizational credibility, management skills, and board and community relations experience.

"The CAA is one of the most important reforms brought about by the Collaborative Agreement and filling the role of Executive Director is of paramount importance," said Scott Greenwood, attorney for the ACLU. "Wendell France is the right person at the right time to lead the CAA in improving police community relations." France was selected from more than 100 applications reviewed by the Collaborative Partners.

France holds a Master's degree from John Hopkins University and is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police, sponsored by the Police Executive Research Forum and the

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Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. He has participated in more than 50 courses and professional seminars regarding law enforcement supervision, management, municipal budgeting and related topics. Professionally, he served as Assistant Warden for the Baltimore Central Booking & Intake Center (Baltimore, MD), Commanding Officer (Major) for the Eastern District (City of Baltimore, MD), and Commanding Officer (Major) for the Crimes Against Persons Section (City of Baltimore, MD). While a member of the Baltimore Police Department, he developed curriculum for Advance Death Investigation, authorized a curriculum model for Community Policing and developed leadership training programs.

“It appears he is the most qualified for the position,” said Harry Roberts, President of the Fraternal Order of Police.

The CCA is charged with investigation of serious interventions by City of Cincinnati police officers, including but not limited to: shots fired, death in custody, improper pointing of firearms at persons, major uses of force, unreasonable search and seizures, racial discriminations. They review and resolve all citizen complaints in a fair and efficient manner.

“I think everyone is eager to work with Mr. France to build the CCA organization going forward,” said Nancy Minson, Chair of the seven-member CCA Board of Directors.

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